

TAKE POST

THE JOURNAL OF THE TORONTO GUNNER COMMUNITY

Dec 2023 Edition 31

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This journal, "Take Post", is published under the authority of the Honoraries of the 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Take Post reaches out to all Gunners and those interested in being part of the Regimental Artillery Family of the Greater Toronto Area.

The purpose is to share information and strengthen the ties between serving members, retired Gunners, Gunner families, friends of the Artillery, and the Greater Toronto Community.

Notes, letters, and articles to the "Editor" can be sent to HLCol Jeannette Chau at jchau@sympatico.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE HLCOL



HLCol Jeannette Chau, CD

7 Toronto Regiment, RCA

As 2023 ends, I reflect back on the year and what has happened. Many major world events have impacted us, and the landscape has rapidly changed.

After emerging out of the COVID restrictions the Regiment had its work cut out getting back up in strength and we have much to be proud of.

Before I go on, I would like to acknowledge and thank outgoing Honorary Colonel Mark Clearihue.

Mark Clearihue's appointment term as your Honorary Colonel came to an end in April 2023. An official change of Honoraries will be held once approval is received for my assuming his post.

I would like to thank Mark for the great contributions he made to the Regiment. Not only was he involved with the Regiment on a regular basis and attended many unit exercises and events, but he led the three McDermott concert fundraising campaigns during his tenure which netted over \$100,000 for the Toronto Artillery Foundation. This money goes towards providing support to the Regiment.

He also served the artillery beyond 7th Toronto Regt, by being an active member on the Artillery Senate and a Director of the Juno Beach Centre.

He has a great legacy to be proud of and he has assured me that he will continue to remain in touch with the Regiment. He is part of our Regimental Family now and will always be so.

As for myself, my term as HLCol is also over, though the plans are for me to remain in place and take over the HCol role.

As I reflect back on some of the activities that I have engaged in over the past three years as well, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be back with the Regiment in a serving capacity. It has been great to be able to go out in the field with the troops again, and participate in unit activities.

One of my first projects was to modify the structure and take on the publication of this Take Post newsletter. It serves to keep the Regimental Family informed of our activities and I hope that you have enjoyed it over the past three years. If you have any suggestions for improvements, or would like to submit an article, please reach out to me.

My appointment term began during COVID and with the armouries in lockdown many of the planned activities to celebrate UBIQUE 150 had to be cancelled. One which was not, was the Canadian Army Run, which was moved to a virtual format instead. With Bdr Donnie David (Brown) as team co-captain we formed the 7th Toronto Regiment Army

Run team with over 25 participants, and were the 5th highest fundraising team, showcasing the artillery spirit in our special 150th year.

Also, in the spirit of UBIQUE150, I undertook to produce the 7th Toronto Regiment history book, which covered the regiments 155-year history, copies of which are in each of the unit's messes now, and a copy in the Shilo Museum. Thanks to Ian Shalapata who helped with the layout and production, and Colin Mouatt, our unit historian.

Following that, there arose an issue with the proper storage of the regiment's historical artifacts and deciding what to do with them. So during the past year and a half, with the blessing of the WO & Sgt's Mess, I have been working to transform the storage room off the side of their mess to a unit historical display room to proudly display our heritage. Thanks goes to members who have also supported this project (WO&Sgt's Mess, LCol (ret'd) Jim Brazill, Bdr Wood, the CO, and the members of the Toronto Artillery Foundation).

What are my upcoming plans for the next phase of my Honorary role?

So far looking forward to 2024, I will be engaging together with the Toronto Artillery Foundation in a major fundraising campaign to pay for the refurbished WWII Quad which has just been purchased. In 2018, a motion had been passed to acquire one to tow our 25 pounder, however none suitable had been found until now. This item comes under Object 2 of the Foundation, which is to establishing and maintain a Regimental Museum, and Object 3 Holding property for the use of the Regiment, including the 25 Pounders, our colours. The repatriation of this WWII vehicle back to Canada is also a great opportunity to reach out to the public and raise the profile of our Regiment and the Reserves. More information on the Quad will come in the new year.

As part of the 4 Division Honoraries network, I am also involved in an Education and Training Syndicate. We will be presenting our work to date to the 4 Div Commander in late January.

May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland where the artillery played a large role. In October 2023, the RCAA reached out to all artillery units to solicit their interest in participating in an artillery battlefield tour in 2025, similar to the one that was conducted in 2019 for the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Artillery units were asked to support this, and 7th Toronto Regiment has agreed to participate. For more details, see the RCAA letter describing the battlefield tour project shown later in this newsletter. I plan to help support this initiative.

I will also be looking at ways to augment our profile with the public to help increase recruiting and support.

And while these activities are going on, the regiment has been very busy with training and operational taskings. 4 Division has moved into the 'Committed' phase, which means we are now the lead division to provide soldiers for deployment, until later in 2025 when another Division takes the lead.

Several of our members have already deployed, and many more will do so in 2024. The regiment has been busy making sure that qualifications are up-to-date, and that soldiers are ready if they wish to deploy. The CO will speak more on the activities of the Regiment.

Our Regimental Family Leadership team, The Toronto Artillery Association, the Limber Gunners, and our affiliated Cadet units (819 Air Cadets Squadron, and 105 Streetsville Army Cadets) are also active and are meeting throughout the year.

I am proud to be a member of such a fine Regiment and look forward to continuing to serve with you.

Wishing you a wonderful, happy, fulfilling and safe year in 2024.

See you in the new year!

UBIQUE

HLCol Jeannette Chau, CD

WORDS FROM THE CO



LCol J.W. Dean, CD
Commanding Officer
7 Toronto Regiment, RCA

It is hard to believe that 2023 has come to an end. Increased tensions overseas means that force generating soldiers for international deployment has become the Regiment's top priority as we move into 2024.

The Army is paying close attention to the readiness of all Primary Reserve units in Canada which includes monitoring the number of soldiers ready to deploy on international operations and respond to domestic emergencies in Canada.

The recent publication of the Soldier Readiness Policy – Reserve (SRP), means that every soldier in 7th Toronto Regiment will be held accountable to maintain their personal readiness. Personal Readiness Verification (PRV) includes things like having a current Force Test (fitness), Personal

Weapons Test, First Aid Qualification along with various weapons handling drills and safety lectures complete.

It is the responsibility of each soldier to ensure they have current personal documents on file such as a current last will and testament, personal emergency notification and next of kin forms, etc. All of these documents can be updated with the human resources administration staff in the orderly room on parade nights.

Supervisors will need to ensure that systems of record are kept up to date, so that when soldiers complete various requirements as part of the SRP that they are reflected in our electronic databases ensuring that our statistics accurately reflect what is happening on the armoury floor.

Members have until 31 March 2024 to ensure they are fully compliant with the 2023/2024 training cycle.

All soldiers should be starting to plan ahead for this summer. There are unlimited employment opportunities within the Army, whether it be attending a career course, working as instructor, or supporting a course as a staff member.

Full time summer employment can be made available for any soldier looking for work. If you are already working in a full time capacity with a good employer and require time off in order to advance your career with the Regiment or to work as an instructor, the chain of command can assist you with securing time off. The more lead time we can provide employers the easier it will be for them to cover short your absence during the summer. It is best to plan early in order to ensure a smooth transition during the summer.

The Primary Reserve is adopting the Performance and Competency Evaluation (PaCE) tool this year. Performance Evaluation Reviews (PARs) will be issued after 1 April 2024 in place of the Performance Evaluation Review (PER).

This evaluation tool uses Monitor Mass software enabling soldiers to confirm their job descriptions,

member aspiration profiles, while allowing their supervisors to track their performance through a series of quarterly feedback notes. Reports will be generated by immediate supervisors and then acknowledged by the members where they can be tracked nationally for succession planning and meriting purposes.

The Regiment is running weekly opportunities on Monday nights to enable Monitor Mass accounts so that soldiers can confirm their job descriptions and member aspiration profiles.

All of this must be accomplished while maintaining a Field Artillery - Battle Task Standard of level 3 live (Battery Level Live – Firing Planning).

The Regiment is expecting to take on additional serviceable howitzers as guns are repaired by the weapons technicians in Toronto. This is good news as we continue to work towards having a gun for each detachment to train on and maintain at Moss Park Armoury.

Opportunities for exciting training is increasing all the time. We need to be ready at all times. Keep up the great work, and I look forward to seeing you in the field. Happy New Year!

LCol J.W. Dean, CD

REGIMENTAL ORDERS PART II

Honours, Awards, Promotions & Appointments

**July to December 2023*

PROMOTIONS

Capt Cham
Lt Fredericks
Lt Kingsley
Lt Vera-Diaz
MBdr Gaudet
MBdr Ramdial
Bdr Kwon
Bdr Lvovsky
Bdr Wood

AWARDS

CANADIAN FORCES DECORATION

Bdr Becerra-Taibe
Bdr Hathaway
Sgt Bassi
Sgt Johnston



Congratulations to all!



Appointments

As of Dec 2023

NAME	POSITION
<i>RHQ</i>	
LCol J.W. Dean	CO
CWO M.I. Bechmanis	RSM
Maj C.R. Roach	2IC
<i>9 Bty</i>	
Maj P.A. Thompson	BC 9
MWO J.C. Lombara	BSM 9
Lt S.K. Cham	BK 9
Lt A. Lam	GPO
Sgt C.S. An	BQMS
<i>15/130 Bty</i>	
Capt J.A. Henry	BC 15/130
MWO J.M. Murray	BSM 15/130
Lt H. Vera Diaz	BK 15/130
TBA	RECRUITING
Sgt C.J.R. Harris	D TP, TSM
2Lt K. Chu	IBTS Cell Tm Ldr
Capt M.R. Galloway	ADJT
PO2 S.N. Hamilton	CHRA
Sgt P.B. Koch	A/CHRA
Capt L.F. Orellano-Castillo	FINANCE OFFICER
Sgt J.C.S. Wood	FIN NCO
Maj E.J. McBride	OPS O/RCPO
	FSCCO
WO S.E. Roodzant	OPS WO
Sgt E.C. Mikkola	RQMS
Capt D.A.R. Clarke	PADRE
<i>BAND</i>	
Lt C. Lam	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MWO D.M. Hicks	BAND 2IC

SECONDARY APPOINTMENTS

As of Dec 23

UNIT SECONDARY POSITION	RANK AND NAME
Information Management Officer (IMO)	Lt. A. Lam
Information Systems Security Officer (ISSO)	Capt M.R. Galloway
Assistant ISSO	Sgt J.C.S. Wood
Security Committee Members	See Routine Orders para 17
Unit Security Officer (USO)	Maj E.J. McBride
Assistant USO	Capt M.R. Galloway
Safety Committee Members	See Routine Orders para 16
Unit General Safety Officer (UGSO)	Maj P. Thomson
Assistant UGSO	Capt M.R. Galloway
Environmental Safety Officer	Capt S. Cham/Sgt R. Johnston
HAZMAT Rep	MBdr K.A. Rooley
Explosive Safety Officer/NCO	Capt M.R. Galloway/WO S.E. Roodzant
Ammunition Safety NCO	MBdr K.A. Rooley
Unit Fire Warden	Sgt E.C. Mikkola/MBdr K.A. Rooley
Crypto Rep	WO S.E. Roodzant
Unit Ethics Coordinator	Capt D.A.R. Clark
Custody Review Officer	Maj C.R. Roach
Harassment Advisor	Capt M.R. Galloway
Casualty Support Assisting Officer	Capt D.A.R. Clark
Return to Work Advisor	Capt M.R. Galloway
Unit Public Affairs Officer (UPAO)	Lt S. Waterman
Unit Public Affairs Rep	Lt. Fredericks
NPF Officer	Capt L.F. Orellano-Castillo
MPAO	Capt L.F. Orellano-Castillo
PMC Officers' Mess	Capt L.F. Orellano-Castillo
PMC Senior NCOs' Mess	
PMC Junior Ranks Mess	MBdr T. Gaudet

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



Date	Event
20 Jan 24	IBTS FTX
26-28 Jan 24	Op Det 2iC Confirmation Gun Ex
24 Feb 24	Garrison Ball
19 Feb 24	Family Day
16 Mar 24	IBTS FTX
22 – 24 Mar 24	Gun FTX - Live
26 May 24	Artillery Day

HCOL CLEARIHUE RECEIVES COMMENDATION

Article by Lt Sam Waterman, reprinted from Canadian Gunner News 26 October 2023

Congratulations to HCol Mark Clearihue on receiving the Colonel Commandants Commendation for your seven years of service and contribution to our regiment as the HLCol and HCol. You will be missed!



Award presented by Colonel Commandant BGen (Ret'd) Patterson at the Brandon Armoury, home to 26th Field Regiment, RCA. This took place during this year's Regimental Leadership Course (RLC) where Mark presented about the role of Honouraries within the Canadian Artillery.

many more high ranking Artillery Officers and NCOs.

Some photos from the mess dinner on the final night of this year's **Regimental Leadership Course (RLC)**. In this course candidates learn about history, customs and traditions of the Canadian Artillery, the role of Honouraries, the RCA Fund, role of RCAA, modernization of the RCA and leadership amongst many other RCA related topics. Presenters included Colonel Commandant (BGen) Patterson, Regimental Colonel Col Grebstad, the Senior Serving Gunner BGen Hunter and



BAND NOTES

The band highlights July - Dec 2023

Written by Bdr Sarah Wu (Bland)

July 1st was a busy day for the band doing two Canada Day celebrations in one day.

In the morning band members were with our unit doing our annual Canada Day gun salute at Queen's Park.

Directly following that, the band drove out to Dundurn Castle in Hamilton to participate in a Canada Day Tattoo hosted by the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. A long day of music that our band loves.



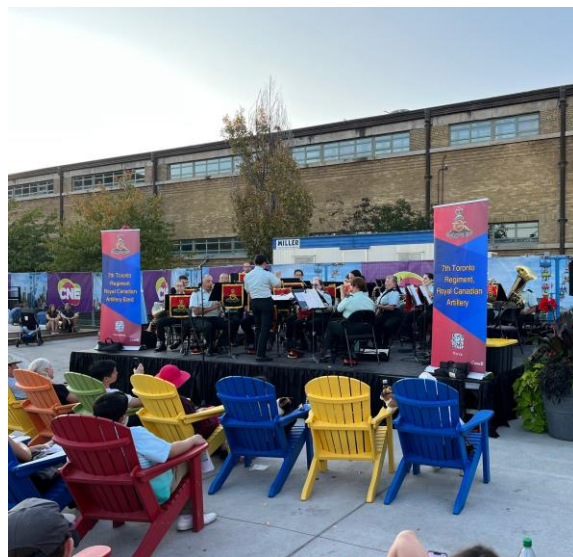
July 15 - Bastille Day with Toronto French School (TFS)

Although it rained and the band was not able to finish the short performance, they were still able to play the anthems (French and Canadian) with the lovely singer from TFS.

27 July- Members of the band were at Old City Hall with other 32 Brigade band members to honour the 70th anniversary of the Korean war.

August marks the end of the summer - for our band that meant representing the Regiment through music making at the Canadian National Exhibition. The band played four of its own gigs with exciting music and our new

banners. The band also played twice with the Toronto Scottish Regiment's Pipes and Drums as they played more traditional music with them.



Sept 8th The band played at a golf club for the Memorial Tin Hat Dinner. This dinner has become a tradition that the attendees all love and ask for our band back every year. The band plays some fun upbeat songs as the guests eat dinner, and as the port wine gets passed around they play all the regimental music from all the units of the people who attended.

Sept 16th The Band performed at Toronto's Polish Festival on Roncesvalles Ave. They played upbeat selections from multiple decades of music and added traditional Polish music to fit the theme of the celebration. When the band plays Polish music the community often joins in singing along with our band. Which leads to a very fun atmosphere.

Nov 5th was our unit's annual Remembrance Memorial Service at St. Clement's Church. This is where our band joins the congregation of the church to accompany the service. We played a new song written and

conducted by Kai Leung, it went really well and sounded amazing with the choir leading.



Nov 11th We were honoured to be providing music support on Remembrance Day at Toronto's Old City Hall in partnership with Lydia Adams and the Elmer Isler Singers. Our band had a new assisting Drum Major, Bdr Wu, that had her first go at the mace. In addition, our Brass Quintet represented the Regiment at Queen's Park where our Gun Salute took place.



Nov 14th Installation of new Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. This was another mass band of 32 Brigade in which our band was a part of.

Dec 2nd St. Barbara's Day Mess Dinner - This mess dinner featured special guests from 32 Combat Engineer Regiment and it was the first time in awhile since the entire band offered music support at this significant day. The dinner was filled with fun music and two new conductors took the podium Sgt Marshall and Sgt Rajkumar who made an excellent debut.

SNAP SHOTS



Canada Day Gun Salute
1 July 2023, Queen's Park



Artillery Reserve Summer Training
qualifying 34 gunners from across the six
Division Primary Reserve regiments.
Gnr Figol from 7th Toronto Regiment is
presented the CO's coin for top candidate



DP1 Course, Petawawa



7 Toronto History book donation to CFB
Shilo Artillery Museum



Remembrance Day Gun Salute
11 November 2023, Queen's Park



Thank you cards made by local grade 3-4 students received by 7th Toronto Reg Soldiers to thank them for their service.



St Barbara's Day Combined Mess Dinner with 32 CER, 2 Dec 2023, The Old Mill



Nov Gun FTX weekend in Meaford



Soldiers Appreciation Dinner, 16 Dec 2023



7th Toronto Regt sends members to complete and instruct CBRN Defence NCO and Radiation Safety Specialist course



The youngest serving Gunner who is traditionally made CO for the duration of the Soldiers Appreciation Dinner

Wishing you Happy Holidays and great year in 2024!

RESOURCES

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

7th Tor Regt RCA is on social media and we are **seeking your help!**

Our aim is to promote unit cohesion, increase recruiting, as well as showcase our accomplishments.

We would encourage you to share with us any pictures of courses, FTXs, promotions, parades or any other unit events that you think would be appropriate.

More specifically, we are looking for pictures which reflect professionalism, and generally good soldiering (proper kit, professional conduct, something you would be proud to show your family).

To address your concerns, there have been a few unofficial social media accounts from the unit over the

years. The difference now is that we are operating officially, with transparency, and following all CAF rules and policies. We also have oversight from 23 CBG PA to ensure we are compliant.

How to share pictures: Send them directly to the Instagram account in a private message. Make sure to include the names of those in the pictures as well as a short description.

Our social media team is composed of:

- Lt Waterman
- Bdr Wan
- Gnr Clarke

Please Like and follow us here.



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/7torrca/>



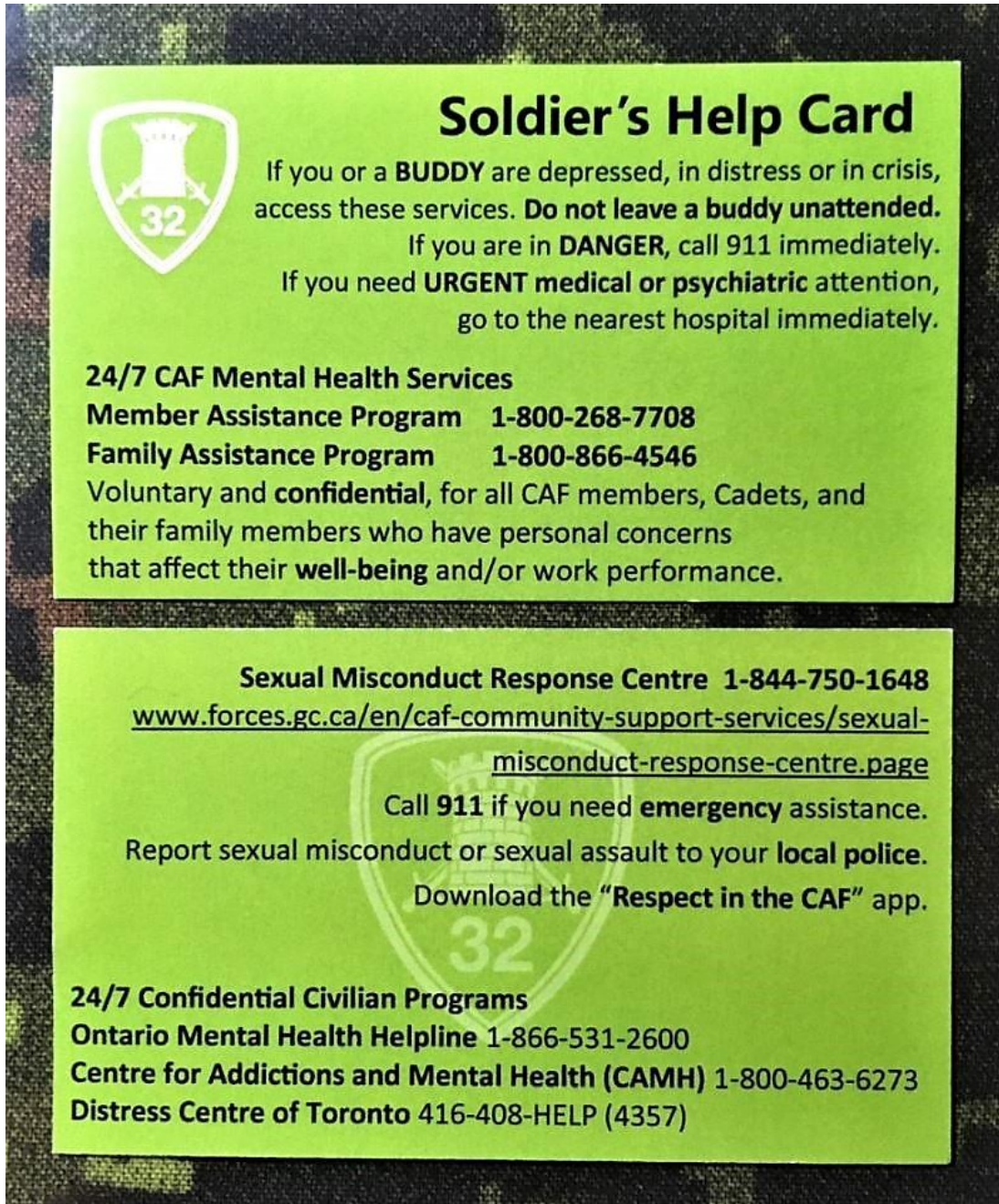
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087386679882>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/7thTorRegtRCA>

SOLDIER's HELP CARD

Soldier's Help Card below. Hardcopies may be obtained from the Padre.



Soldier's Help Card

If you or a **BUDDY** are depressed, in distress or in crisis, access these services. **Do not leave a buddy unattended.**
 If you are in **DANGER**, call 911 immediately.
 If you need **URGENT medical or psychiatric** attention, go to the nearest hospital immediately.

24/7 CAF Mental Health Services
Member Assistance Program 1-800-268-7708
Family Assistance Program 1-800-866-4546
 Voluntary and **confidential**, for all CAF members, Cadets, and their family members who have personal concerns that affect their **well-being** and/or work performance.

Sexual Misconduct Response Centre 1-844-750-1648
www.forces.gc.ca/en/caf-community-support-services/sexual-misconduct-response-centre.page
 Call **911** if you need **emergency** assistance.
 Report sexual misconduct or sexual assault to your **local police**.
 Download the "**Respect in the CAF**" app.

24/7 Confidential Civilian Programs
Ontario Mental Health Helpline 1-866-531-2600
Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) 1-800-463-6273
Distress Centre of Toronto 416-408-HELP (4357)



The 'Family Battle Box' provides resources intended to inform and support Military and Veteran families. It includes support services and crisis services available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can be accessed at this link: <https://my.stickyfolios.com/tgyzr1p41qdp>

Any member, Regular Force or Reserve Force, or a member of their family may contact the Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program (CFMAP) for any reason. CFMAP counsellors will ensure that families are connected with supports appropriate to their unique situation. While both providing mental health supports, the key difference between CFMAP and the Family Information Line is that CFMAP provides referral to clinical counselling and mental health treatment services while the Family Information Line provides emotional support and counselling services. **CFMAP - Canadian Forces Member Assistance Program**: 1-800-268-7708

Are you: a currently serving reserve force member whose issue is individual and NOT in the context of a family need or issue?

Are you: a family member of a regular or reserve force member; or a currently serving regular force or reserve force member and the issue for which you are seeking help is in the context of a family need or issue? We will help you find appropriate support

Contact **TMFRC Prevention, Support and Intervention Coordinator - Shara Claire**,
Shara.Claire@TorontoMFRC.ca

UNIT SUPPORT CELL

Reminder that the Regiment also has a Unit Support Cell for all members of the 7th Toronto Regiment. Should you feel you need to reach out to somebody, the following persons are available to receive your call:

- a) LCol John Dean, Commanding Officer
Email: John.Dean@forces.gc.ca
Phone: 416-999-5175
- b) MWO James Lombara, Battery Sergeant Major
Email: James.Lombara@gmail.com
Phone: 647-829-9844
- c) HLCpl Jeannette Chau, Senior Regimental Advisor
Email: JChau@sympatico.ca
Phone: 416-697-9511

PEER SUPPORT STAFF/SENTINELS

Peer Support is available both for those who have concerns for themselves as a result of serving on missions and/or from the routine stresses of life; and also for those who are concerned about others who have returned from missions and are showing signs of stress, or from the routine stresses of non-deployed life. Peer support is not exclusive to those who have deployed; those who have not deployed, but are experiencing stress related to service or routine life are strongly encouraged to make use of the same network of support. The following individuals have been designated as peer support providers and sentinels:

1. Maj P.A. Thompson
2. Capt D.A.R. Clark
3. Capt R.J. Morningstar
4. Capt M.R. Galloway (Sentinel)
5. 2Lt J. Faraji (Sentinel)
6. MWO J.C. Lombara
7. Sgt R.S. Johnston (Sentinel)
8. WO J.C.S. Wood
9. MCpl P.B. Koch

FREE ADMISSION TO PARKS CANADA LOCATIONS



Effective January 1, 2024, CAF members, Veterans of the CAF, and their immediate families will receive **free daily admission to all Parks Canada administered locations** by presenting their CF One Platinum card, which is administered through Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS).

CF One Platinum cards are exclusively issued to currently serving members and Veterans of the CAF and their immediate families. Veterans can also present their Veteran's Service Card which is available to any former member of the Canadian

Armed Forces who completed basic training and has been honourably released.

Parks Canada protects a vast network of cultural and natural heritage places that includes 171 national historic sites, 47 national parks, five national marine conservation areas and one national urban park

The Government of Canada acknowledges and respects the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices made by Canadian Veterans, active Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, and their families.

Official Government of Canada announcement:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2023/12/government-of-canada-announces-free-daily-admission-to-parks-canada-administered-places-for-members-and-veterans-of-the-canadian-armed-forces-and-t.html>

LIBERATION OF HOLLAND BATTLEFIELD TOUR

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

*The
Royal Canadian Artillery
Association*



*L'Association de
l'Artillerie royale
canadienne*

13 October 2023

RE: 80th Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour, May 2025

Dear Sirs, Commanding Officers, et al

I am writing this letter to solicit your interest in participating in a May 2025 Battlefield tour to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Holland. The organisation of a trip of this magnitude involves a lot of time and resources and we, at the RCAA, would like to ensure that we have sufficient interest from all the units across the country before we start planning. For those of you that participated in the last significant commemoration, the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in 2019, we would like to build on it's success and use the lessons learned to make this trip better.

Why

- The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland will be a major event – the very last major event while veterans of the Second World War are still with us. These commemorative events in Holland every fifth year are always a big deal – but this one will be special.
- The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery played a major role in the Second World War, especially in the Liberation of Holland.
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will be the lead Department for Canada in official ceremonies, and the Department of National Defence (DND) will support the VAC efforts (typically a multi-service Guard, Band, Logistics support, Security, VIPs, airlift, etc.). Elements of the Gunner community will most certainly be involved in the VAC-led events, but so will all elements of the CAF be represented.
- Separate from the "official" GOC activities, many Branches/Corps, Regiments, Associations, and travel companies will be organizing commemorative trips to participate in the 80th Anniversary of Liberation of Holland.

Mission

- To enhance cohesion, morale, and esprit de corps of the Royal Regiment by commemorating and celebrating the accomplishments of our predecessors during the Liberation of Holland 1945.

Rationale

- Remember and commemorate those Gunners who served in WWII, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.
- Build cohesion and morale amongst serving members, Regular Force and Reserve.
- Connect the serving generation of the RCA with retired members
- Support and reinforce the goals and objectives of the RCA Association.
- Supplement the professional development of serving members.
- Re-learn lessons of the Artillery at war in a theatre of operations in North-West Europe.

*Administration
27048 35B Avenue
Langley, B.C. V4W 0C3*

*Au service des artilleurs canadiens depuis 1876
Serving Canadian Gunners Since 1876*

*Finance
10 Lancelwood Crescent
Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*

1/2

*The
Royal Canadian Artillery
Association*



*L'Association de
l'Artillerie royale
canadienne*

Concept and Scope

- Conduct a ten-day battlefield study immediately prior to and during the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.
- Aim for 30 to 40 deserving Non-Commissioned Members and Junior Officers representing every Regular Force and Reserve Artillery unit, who will be sponsored through raised donations.
- Invite other serving, retired Gunners and their families, Association members and others, who will pay their own way.
- Aim for two bus loads of participants (80-90 pax).
- Engage a professional company that specializes in battlefield studies, with professional historians.
- Arrange all travel activities (flights, land travel, hotels, meals, insurance, etc.) through a professional travel agency.
- Conduct with the assistance of the RCAA, a major Non-Public fundraising campaign at national, local, and unit level to raise approximately \$6,000-6,500 per person. Ideally each participating member should contribute \$500 towards the trip.
- Identify a point of Contact per unit that will engage with the national organising committee.

Conclusion

The RCAA want to ensure the participation of serving gunners and we are willing to put the time and resources however, this trip cannot happen without your support and commitment. Please advise us of your interest in supporting and participating in this trip by the 31st of October by notifying Major (R) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

Following the returns, timelines and more information will be coming your way.
If you have any questions, please also contact Maj (Ret'd) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

Ubique!

Bill Kalogerakis

B. (Bill) Kalogerakis, CD
Colonel (Ret'd)
President
The Royal Canadian Artillery Association
president.rcaa.aarc@gmail.com

*Administration
27048 35B Avenue
Langley, B.C. V4W 0C3
2/2*

*An service des artilleurs canadiens depuis 1876
Serving Canadian Gunners Since 1876*

*Finance
10 Lancelwood Crescent
Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*

UPCOMING AWARDS & BURSARIES

a. **Spirit of UBIQUE Photo Contest**

- i. \$100 award per quarter. Submissions due at 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December
- ii. For details and application: <https://rca-arc.org/awards/regimental-awards/regimental-photo-contest/>

b. **The Geoffrey Brooks Memorial Essay Competition**

- i. Awarded by the RCAA. Bursary value is \$500, \$300, and \$200 for first, second, and third place respectively. Application deadline this year is **1 April. Applicants must be recommended by Commanding Officer**
- ii. For details and application: <https://rca-arc.org/awards/regimental-awards/bursaries/>

c. **The Brigadier-General E.B. Beno Award for Leadership in the Rank of Sergeant**

- i. Awarded by the RCAA. Open to all substantive Sergeants of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery as well as all Sergeants of other trades/branches serving within units of The Royal Regiment during the assessment period (1 April to 31 March annually).
Submissions due no later than **1 April. Applicants must be recommended by Commanding Officer**
- ii. For details and nomination form : <https://rca-arc.org/awards/regimental-awards/the-brigadier-general-e-b-beno-award-for-leadership-in-the-rank-of-sergeant/>

d. **Captain General's Diamond Jubilee Bursary Program (CGDJBP)**

- i. Bursary value is \$1,000. Up to five \$1000 bursaries. Application deadline this year is **30 Sept 2024.**
- ii. For details and application: <https://rca-arc.org/awards/regimental-awards/bursaries/>



TORONTO ARTILLERY FOUNDATION

HLCol Jeannette Chau



Unit Historical Collection

Progress on the unit's Historical Display Room has been coming along nicely.

The display cabinets are in place, the entrance door has been painted in artillery colours, the bookcase installed and the paintings and photos neatly arranged.

There is still work to do such as the curating and labelling of the artifacts, however the room has come a long way since its initial stages as a storage space.

During the Soldier's Appreciation dinner on 16 December, a mini open house was held and the

soldiers were able to walk through and view how the displays were coming along.

It is exciting to see historic artifacts and photos from WW2, WW1, and earlier. Our regiment has a 157 year history beginning as 9 Battery.

The work continues steadily and an official opening will be held in 2024.

If you have any questions about our collection, please feel free to reach out to HLCol Chau through the unit orderly room or directly at ichau@sympatico.ca

LIMBER GUNNERS



July 2023

Gunners in case you have not heard, the Toronto Artillery Foundation was successful in the bidding for a 1940 Chev. FAT Cab 11 located in Belgium. The bidding was carried out with Jeremy Blowers, Director of the Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum, and HLCol Jeannette Chau. The Limber Gunners should expect delivery some time in the later part of January 2024. When the new FAT arrives at MPA we will let everyone know.

This latter part of 2023 has been busy for the Limbers Gunners. We had a very successful showing at Aquino Day in June 2023 and we were named 'Best in the Show'. This was due to our very large crowd participation displays and the live firing demonstration for the Armoured display portion of the Show. There was also a special memorial round fired for the passing of former Limber Gunner Gord Kowalishen.

The Limber Gunners fired a Shot Gun Start for the Durham Region Police Association on Thursday, September 7 at Deer Creek Golf Course in Ajax, and then fired another Shot Gun Start for the Queens Own Rifle Golf Tournament on September 8 at the Cardinal Golf Course in Newmarket.

The two consecutive Shot Gun Starts on September 7 & 8 presented a bit of a logistical difficulty in terms of manpower, relocation of equipment and having sufficient drivers to move the equipment. I would like to thank the Limber Gunner members for their support.

The Regimental Barbeque was held on Monday September 11. I want to thank the Limber Gunner membership, the Regiment and the Band members for making the barbeque a great success.

I would like to thank the following members - Barry Downs, James Brazil, Denise Gordon, Joe McCormack, Mark Dunsbier, Galahad Birung, George Lloyd and Ron Paterson for supporting the Regimental Gunners Appreciation (Christmas) Dinner on Saturday December 16th. Mark Dunsbier travelled from London, Ontario to attend the dinner.

I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ron Paterson
Chair, Limber Gunners

TORONTO POLICE MILITARY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Photo credit: Jim Brazill

On 7 July 2023 at the Gunners Luncheon held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI), the Toronto Police Military Veterans Association, a Benefactor of the Toronto Artillery Foundation, presented another generous donation to the Toronto Artillery Foundation.

We are thankful for and proud of the strong and enduring connection between the TPMVA and The

Gunner Family which goes back to WW1 when the Toronto Police donated their police horses to the artillery to tow the guns. Many members have also served with the artillery and they have participated in our events and vice versa.

Thanks TPMVA!

105 RCACC STREETSVILLE ARMY CADETS

105, Ready for Anything

*.Article By: C/WO Soares
105 Streetsville Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps
Date: 18 Dec 2023*

The 2023-24 training year for 105 is in full swing! Cadets have all returned from their experiences at summer training and are ready to jump into a brand new training year. Beginning with the appointment of a new RSM, C/CWO Bocarro.

C/CWO Bocarro has been in the cadet program for 6 years and is ready to work with their new team of senior cadets to lead the corps forward during the training year.



Along with corps training every week, cadets have had opportunities to attend activities planned by the Regional Cadet Support Unit to further develop their skills.

Our Gold Stars had the opportunity to attend the Year 4 Area Directed Activity (ADA) where they learned more about instructional techniques and leading a platoon on the parade square. The Green Stars had an opportunity to attend an ADA to practice their marksmanship techniques while our Silver and Gold Stars spent a weekend in October where they practiced their expedition skills, hiking, mountain biking, and flatwater canoeing. All of these activities allow our cadets to meet and interact with cadets from different cadet units.



In addition to activities where cadets are able to learn new skills, the corps also has 3 optional teams that have begun practicing for upcoming competitions and demonstrations in the new year.

Our Drill Team has been practicing their rifle drill and teaching new cadets the basics as they prepare for their first competition in March.

Our Marksmanship Teams have just concluded their tryouts and will be practicing weekly for their competitions later in 2024.

Finally, our 105 Band has begun practicing led by the newly appointed Drum Major, C/WO Derks.

These teams will continue to work hard as they prepare to represent the corps and compete in the near future.



This year, cadets took part in our annual Remembrance Day Vigil. Cadets stood guard at the Streetsville cenotaph from 2100 hrs on November 10th, until the conclusion of the Remembrance ceremony on the 11th. This time gave cadets an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice of those who have served our country and show our appreciation and respect for the fallen. The corps also participated in the Streetsville Remembrance Day parade the following morning where approximately 100 cadets were present.



Fundraising and volunteering for the community is a big part of the cadet program. 105 has been out, serving the community throughout this first

half of the training year. Whether it be grocery bagging at a local Superstore or assisting in a community holiday activity, cadets have been making a positive impact on the community this year and will continue to do so!

Finally, as the corps prepares to stand down for the winter break, cadets have been preparing their uniforms and reviewing mess hall etiquette for our annual mess dinner. This will conclude the first part of our training year and be a fun send off as the final cadet activity of 2023. Cadets will return to the corps in January where they look forward to their new experiences and exciting upcoming activities in the new year.



818 ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADET SQUADRON



819 RCAC Squadron
Mess Dinner, 18 Dec 2023

2023 was a momentous year for 819 Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron as they marked their 50th Anniversary in June with a celebration.

After a decrease in members during COVID, the squadron has bounded back and many new recruits have joined. The cadets range in age from 8 to 18 years of age.

On December 18, the cadets had the opportunity to experience a traditional Mess dinner and to learn and practice the customs, including being piped in by bagpipes.

HLCol Jeannette Chau was the honoured guest speaker at the event, where she spoke about traditions.

LAST POST

In Memory of RYAN SMID

13 Jun 1971 – 6 Aug 2023



Ryan, a private pilot, filed his final flight plan on 6 August 2023 and waved off by his beloved wife, Lisa, and daughters Tatyana and Natalya, departed on his final journey, at age 52, after a valiant fight against pancreatic cancer.

Born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Ryan was known for his quick wit, humor, competitive spirit and enthusiastic approach to everything he did. A proud Saskatchewan boy, he was a fanatical Riders fan wearing the *green* with pride. He joined Air Cadets at age 12 and after earning a B.A. (Honours) in Political Studies from the University of Saskatchewan, he began his 28-year military career as an Artillery Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

He served the Royal Regiment across Canada in 1 RCHA, 2 RCHA, various headquarters and around the world, culminating in command of 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.

Ryan also attained a M.A. in International Trade, is a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Program, was invested in the Order of Military Merit, awarded the Medal of Bravery, and earned the Canadian Forces Decoration with clasp.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smid (ret'd) served on operational tours in Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Lebanon in addition to participation in several international Disaster Assistance Response Team missions and domestic operations. Ryan was so very thankful for the greatest gift the CAF and the Royal Regiment gave him, that being the life-long friendships he developed.

After retirement from the CAF, Ryan achieved another of his life goals when he was appointed Headmaster of Robert Land Academy, an institution employing a military-model and holistic education for students in grades 5 to 12. An authentic and transformational leader, he employed his business and team collaboration skills to facilitate the institution's sustainable growth, a remarkable legacy.

On June 3, 2000, Ryan married his soulmate, Lisa (Cheeseman) in Shilo, Manitoba. Together they enjoyed many adventures through postings across the country and travels around the world with their greatest joy being their two daughters, Tatyana and Natalya.

Whether working with his military team, the boys at RLA or his daughters, Ryan was always keen to push people to achieve their individual potential. He was often heard expressing the philosophy of working hard to achieve *your* specific potential, not looking to what another is doing. He truly believed in helping people be their best.

He is always with us.

Good shooting, Ryan. Stand easy.

Ryan was remembered at a Celebration of Life held at 7th Toronto Regiment, Toronto, on 18 November 2023

LEST WE FORGET

